

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVE AMENDMENTS FOR THE ENHANCED EMERGENCY SHELTER
PROGRAM FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUTH
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to amend five Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program Agreements to provide temporary emergency shelter beds and enhanced basic living support services for Transition Age Youth, and delegate authority to execute additional agreements with qualified agencies consistent with the Mental Health Services Act Community Services and Supports Plan.

REQUEST

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute Amendments to extend five Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EES Program) Agreements for three years to provide temporary emergency shelter to Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) and Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) Transition Age Youth (TAY) with the following contractors: 1) 1736 Family Crisis Center, 2) California Hispanic Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Inc., 3) Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center, 4) Special Service for Groups, and 5) CHOICES Recovery Services. Under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), TAY is defined as youth 16-25 years of age. The cost for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 is \$605,000 annually, and these amendments will be fully funded with MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan funds. The Amendments will be effective on July 1, 2009 or Board approval, whichever is later, through June 30, 2012.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute additional EES Program Agreements, if any, with eligible, qualified agencies, provided that 1) the aggregate total payments to all contractors does not exceed \$605,000 annually for FYs 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 and 2) the additional services and supports meet identified needs consistent with the CSS Plan.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the Agreements provided that: 1) the applicable contract per-night rate is not increased by more than 20 percent annually; 2) any increase is used to provide additional services and/or supports or to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) the Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all additions and/or modifications; 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer

(CEO), or their designee is obtained prior to any such amendments; 5) the parties, by written Amendment, mutually agree to reduce programs or services and revise the applicable contracted per-night rate; and 6) the Director of Mental Health notifies your Board within 30 days after execution of such amendments.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The five EES Program Agreements are currently authorized through June 30, 2009. Approval of the recommended actions ensures that temporary emergency shelter beds and enhanced basic living support services designed specifically for homeless SED/SPMI TAY continue to be available without interruption. The MHSA CSS Plan identified several outcomes for TAY accessing the EES Program including: 1) access to basic support services and linkages; 2) safe and adequate housing, including reduction in homelessness; 3) ensuring access and linkage to services when TAY elect to receive them; 4) timely access to needed help, especially during times of crisis; 5) a network of supportive relationships; and 6) opportunities to build trusting relationships with persons who can, as the TAY is ready, assist the TAY toward recovery and wellness.

In short, the Agreements authorize qualified contractors to provide referral, linkage, counseling and life-skills services, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and temporary emergency 24-hour, seven days per week shelter for up to 29 consecutive days to qualifying TAY.

The total annual program cost of \$605,000 fully funded with MHSA CSS on going funds is included in the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget and will be requested as part of the annual budget process for FYs 2010-11 and 2011-12. There is no increase in net County cost.

The County will pay the EES Program contractors at an enhanced services rate established by DMH of \$85.00 per client per night. An additional rate of \$42.50 per child per night will be paid for clients with children, with a maximum payment for two children per night. The County will not guarantee a specific or minimum number of client referrals or funding amount to a contractor. Since EES beds are purchased on an "as needed" basis, the Agreements do not contain a contract dollar amount. Under no circumstance will the total aggregate payment to all contractors be more than \$605,000 annually for FYs 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12.

BACKGROUND

The focus of the MHSA CSS Plan is on recovery-oriented services for people who are diagnosed as SED and/or SPMI. Within TAY, the priority populations are those who are

diagnosed with SED/SPMI and who are homeless or currently at risk of homelessness, those aging out of the child welfare, child mental health, and juvenile justice systems, those leaving long-term institutional care, those who have experienced their first psychotic break, and those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. TAY with serious mental health challenges are often highly transient, and therefore present unique challenges for providing effective services and supports. One of the primary challenges to effectively providing services and supports is to establish a trusting relationship in a safe and supportive environment with the person to receive the service. The EES Program is a necessary resource where this essential outreach and engagement can begin.

DMH TAY Division Housing Specialists and System Navigation staff will serve as “gatekeepers” responsible for identifying the housing needs of SED/SPMI TAY, and for verifying that the client meets the CSS target population. Once authorized for admission to an EES Program site, the staff will screen the client to determine the level of mental health services needed and work toward achieving the necessary linkage to services. These services may include MHSA Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs or less intensive services based on the client's needs. The TAY Division Housing Specialists will further assist the client with securing more permanent living arrangements for the client upon leaving the shelter.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On August 13, 2007, DMH issued a Request for Information (RFI) for “Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program for TAY (ages 16-25) under the MHSA (Bid# DMH081507B1)” to over 1,000 agencies and individuals on the DMH master bidders’ list, and also posted the RFI on the County and DMH web sites (<http://lacounty.info>) and (<http://dmh.lacounty.info/RFSQ>). Nine agencies responded to the RFI. The five contractors met the minimum qualifications and successfully responded to the Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program RFI. Your Board previously authorized DMH to enter into Agreements with these five contractors effective through June 30, 2009. The Proposed amendments will extend these Agreements through June 30, 2012.

DMH will accept responses to the EES program RFI on a continuous basis through June 30, 2009, and an addendum to the RFI will be posted to extend this date to June 30, 2012.

Board approval of the proposed actions is expected to provide improved referral and linkage to mental health services and supports for the priority population of SED/SPMI TAY through the addition of the EES Program. Upon full implementation, it is estimated

that over 300 SED/SPMI TAY will obtain temporary emergency shelter and other necessary services and support through the EES Program.

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